

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for routing information in a communication system that includes a platform and a prioritization apparatus configured to perform a plurality of performance enhancing functions, the method comprising:

receiving the information from the platform and receiving prioritization parameters, wherein the prioritization apparatus maintains a profile that contains the prioritization parameters; and

routing the information in accordance with the profile.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a path that the information takes to reach its destination based on the profile.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

determining the path by applying at least one priority rule.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein a priority of the information is determined by the prioritization apparatus.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein a priority of the information is determined prior to receipt by the prioritization apparatus.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether the information should be forwarded using an alternate path.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the prioritization parameters as a data structure from the platform.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the prioritization parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated path selection or path activation parameters.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

applying multiple prioritization rules using boolean operators.

10. A communication system comprising:

a platform configured to provide performance enhancing functions, the platform supplying information and prioritization parameters;

a prioritization apparatus communicating with the platform, the prioritization apparatus being configured to receive the information and the prioritization parameters from the platform, wherein the prioritization apparatus has a profile that specifies

prioritization parameters, wherein the communication system is configured to route the information in accordance with the profile.

11. The communication system of claim 10, wherein the prioritization apparatus determines a path that the information takes to reach its destination based on the profile.

12. The communication system of claim 11, wherein the prioritization apparatus determines the path by applying at least one prioritization rule.

13. The communication system of claim 10, wherein a priority of the information is determined by the prioritization apparatus.

14. The communication system of claim 10, wherein a priority of the information is determined prior to receipt by the prioritization apparatus.

15. The communication system of claim 10, wherein the prioritization apparatus determines whether the information should be forwarded using an alternate path.

16. The communication system of claim 10, wherein the prioritization apparatus receives the prioritization parameters as a data structure from the platform.

17. The communication system of claim 10, wherein the prioritization apparatus receives the prioritization parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated prioritization parameters.

18. The communication system of claim 10, wherein the prioritization apparatus can apply multiple prioritization rules, combined using boolean operators.

19. A prioritization apparatus for routing information in a communication system that includes a platform configured to perform a plurality of performance enhancing functions, the apparatus comprising:

- means for receiving the information and prioritization parameters,
- means for maintaining a profile containing the prioritization parameters; and
- means for routing the information in accordance with the profile.

20. The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein the prioritization apparatus determines a path that the information takes to reach its destination.

21. The prioritization apparatus of claim 20, wherein the prioritization apparatus determines the path by applying at least one prioritization rule.

22. The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein a priority of the information is determined by the prioritization apparatus.
23. The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein a priority of the information is determined prior to receipt by the prioritization apparatus.
24. The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein the prioritization apparatus determines whether the information should be forwarded using an alternate path.
25. The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein the prioritization apparatus receives the prioritization parameters as a data structure from the platform.
26. The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein the prioritization apparatus receives the prioritization parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated prioritization parameters.
27. The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein the prioritization apparatus can apply multiple prioritization rules, combined using boolean operators.
28. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for routing information in a communication system that includes a platform and a prioritization apparatus configured to perform a plurality of performance enhancing functions, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
 - receiving the information from the platform and receiving prioritization parameters, wherein the prioritization apparatus maintains a profile that contains the prioritization parameters; and
 - routing the information in accordance with the profile.
29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising:
 - determining a path that the information takes to reach its destination based on the profile.
30. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, further comprising:
 - determining the path by applying at least one prioritization rule.
31. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein a priority of the information is determined by the prioritization apparatus.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein a priority of the information is determined prior to receipt by the prioritization apparatus.
33. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising:
determining whether the information should be forwarded using an alternate path.
34. The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising:
receiving the prioritization parameters as a data structure from the platform.
35. The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising:
receiving the prioritization parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated prioritization parameters.
36. The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising:
applying multiple prioritization rules using boolean operators.